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AN EXHIBITION

IN THE

BATES HALL OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE
CITY OF BOSTON

OF SOME OF THE

BOOKS, MAPS, PORTRAITS,

AND

OTHER MATTERS OF INTEREST

RELATING TO THE

DISCOVERY OF THE NEW WORLD BY COLUMBUS

OCTOBER, 1892

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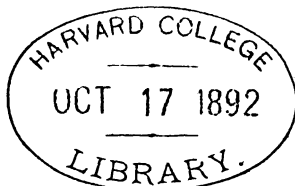
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PORTRAITS.

The shelf-numbers in the margin indicate books mentioned.

The portraits of Columbus are not numerous, and none is known with certainty to be a correct likeness.

The earliest wood-cut possessed by this Library is in Paolo Giovio's *Elogia virorum illustrium* (Basle, 1596); it first appeared in the 1575 edition, and ranks as the first known portrait. What is known as the Yanez portrait (in Madrid) is claimed to be the original of one of two paintings thought to have been owned by Giovio. It may be seen engraved in Ruge's *Geschichte des Zeitalters der Entdeckungen*. There is a direct copy of the Yanez painting in the possession of the Wisconsin Historical Society. **2300.5.2** **2273.52**

In Part V. of the *Grand Voyages of De Bry*, in both the first and second editions (dated 1595), may be found the second oldest known engraved portrait. This Library is able to show good specimens of both impressions, though the superior **G.281.51.3**; brightness of the first is noticeable. The two warts on the cheek do not appear in later prints. To this De Bry there is a general resemblance in the portrait copied for Thomas Jefferson in 1784, and now placed in the Massachusetts Historical Society (engraved in Winsor's *History*, vol. 2, p. 74). **4310a.160.2**

In Roselly de Lorgues is an engraving from a painting ascribed to Antonio del Rincon, and thought to have been painted on the return of Columbus from his second voyage. Of modern paintings, Sir David Wilkie's, first exhibited in 1835, stands high in interest. It represents the Discoverer explaining his theory at the Franciscan Convent of Santa Maria de la Rábida (Mag. of Amer. Hist., May, 1890). A picture now rejected as spurious was often published in Prescott's *Ferdinand and Isabella*, after a supposed original by Parmegiano. La Cosa's drawing (1500) of St. Christopher carrying the infant Christ across water is mentioned under the Columbian voyages, which see, p. 9. **4745.8.1** **4414.50.23**

An interesting group of engraved portraits is in the *Magazine of American History*, Oct., 1891; in Winsor's *Narrative and*

4310a.160.2 Critical History, vol. 2, pp. 69-79; and the Cosmopolitan
Tosti.no.353 magazine for the present year. A proof engraving by Mercuri
which resembles the De Bry portrait, is in the Tosti collection.

A model of a group given to the Library by the Marquis de Sale, through Alexandre Vattemare, has been for some years in the Central Reading room. It was executed by Raggi for the Marquis, and represents Columbus at the moment of sighting land. On the left is Pinzon, the mutinous companion of Columbus, behind is a Franciscan, and on the right is the pilot.

LIFE AND EARLY MENTION.

It would be impracticable to try to present all early references to Columbus; it is enough to say that they were few and meagre, affording no biographical information of value. Gry-næus in his *Novus Orbis*, following the *Paesi novamente ritrovati* (1507) gives a brief notice.

G.300.15

Peter Martyr of Anghiera, whom Winsor calls "a bustling reporter at the Spanish court, fond of letter-writing," probably derived the information which he widely disseminated regarding the discovery from Columbus himself.

G.351.25

By far, however, the most interesting information as well as the earliest sketch of his life is in the famous Giustiniani Psalter. This polyglot Psalter, of which two thousand copies were printed, and which has been "prohibited, confiscated, and otherwise ill-used," was compiled by Agostino Giustiniani in 1516. In a printed marginal note to Psalms xix. v. 4, "Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, he speaks of Columbus as "vilibus ortus parentibus" — born of low parentage; this phrase was offensive to Ferdinand Columbus, the illegitimate offspring of Christopher and Beatrix, and who sailed with his father in his fourth voyage. In his famous *Historie* he speaks of the "fourteen lies" of Giustiniani, and defends in every way possible the reputation of his family. This work was first printed at Venice in 1571, though Ferdinand died in 1539. Without entering into the controversy it may be enough to say that the genuineness of the *Historie* was denied, principally by HARRISSE, and is now admitted by him. It does not begin the story of the Admiral's life until his fifty-sixth year, avoiding thereby all mention of the humble circumstances of the earlier life of him who later had so illustrious a career.

D.271.3

G.356.31

A translation of the interesting note in the Psalter is in **G.300.9**
Harrisse's "Notes on Columbus."

THE REMAINS OF COLUMBUS.

In 1877 a leaden box containing human remains was found in the cathedral of the city of Santo Domingo. It is claimed that these are the bones of Columbus; on the box is an inscription

D. de la A. Per H^{to}.

(Discoverer of America. First Admiral.)

It is in answer argued that the use of the word America was not admitted in Spain at the time of the alleged writing of the inscription. See Shea's illustrated summary of the contestation in Mag. of Amer. Hist., Jan., 1883. **4414.50.9**

The supposed remains of Columbus were carefully removed in 1795 to Havana, where they rest, from Santo Domingo, whither they had been brought from Spain. The whole question rests upon whether the right tomb was opened in 1795.

COAT OF ARMS.

In Harrisse's Christophe Colomb (1884) is a blazon of **2280a.61** the arms of Columbus prepared under his own direction at Seville in 1502. It will be noticed that the lower left field contains gold islands and main with azure water; these, however, are not meant to present known facts in regard to the discoveries. In vol. 2 (p. 166) is the blazon given by letters patent in 1493.

There has been added later about the escutcheon a device, sometimes reading:

Por Castilla é por Leon
Nuevo mundo halló Colon.

(For Castille and Leon Columbus found a new world);
or,

A Castilla y a Leon
Nuevo mundo dió Colon.

(To Castille and Leon, Columbus gave a new world.)

Oviedo (1535) is the first to mention this device. Ferdinand Columbus uses the second and more ambitious form as if it were the epitaph of Columbus.

The 1493 coat is also given in Roselly de Lorgues, vol. 2. **4745.8.2**

AUTOGRAPHS.

- Facsimiles of a copy of a letter to Nicoló Odérigo committing papers to his charge on the eve of departure on the fourth voyage have often been reprinted. One may be seen in Spotorno's Memorials of Columbus.
- 2318.2**
- 2350a.74** Mr. George Dexter in his study of the signatures of Columbus reproduced from those given in the *Cartas de Indias* calls attention to the fact that although Columbus in his will describes how his signature is to be made (Irving's 1828 edition, vol. 3, p. 410 and 419), he nevertheless made a distinction between his signature when affixed to a letter written by another, and when affixed to one written in his own hand. In a holograph he seems to have prefixed a colon before the peculiar device representing his name.
- 4411.105.3**
- 2740.51** Harris in his *Christopher Columbus and the Bank of St. George* presents a facsimile of the letter addressed to the Bank of St. George of Genoa, written just before his fourth voyage, entrusting it with certain of his financial affairs. This letter remained on file in the bank for 327 years, when in 1829 it was removed to the City Hall of Genoa. He also presents an interesting forgery of this document, alleged at first to be a genuine copy by Columbus himself, and afterwards to be the original of which the bank's document was only a copy. Harris's argument on the forgery is both ingenious and convincing.
- One very interesting relic of Columbus is a sketch made by him, indicating the main features of an allegorical painting which was to have been made, representing him as seated in a boat with Providence at his side, attended by Constancy, Tolerance, Religion, Victory, and Hope. One facsimile of this is in Banchero's *Il Codice Colomboamericano*, and another in vol. 4 of the *Museo español de antigüedades*, lacking, however, the annotations around the margins of the sketch as given in Banchero.
- 4311.129**
- Ticknor**
- Cab. 1. vol. 4**

FIRST SPANISH LETTER TO SANTANGEL ANNOUNCING THE DISCOVERY OF AMERICA.

A difference of opinion regarding the priority of publication of these letters makes them an interesting feature of the Columbus question from a literary, though not historical, standpoint.

One main point in dispute is, whether the Spanish letter to

Luis de Santangel or the Latin translation of the letter to Sanchez was the first printed. The next point is regarding the order of issue of the several editions of the Sanchez letter in Rome and Paris and elsewhere in 1493.

The placing of the Santangel letter first, and the chosen order of the Latin editions, should not be understood as committing the Library to any final opinion upon the subject.

It is claimed that, fearing shipwreck near the Azores on his return from the first voyage, Columbus threw overboard a brief account of the discovery, and immediately after, perhaps February 14, 15, 1493, wrote the first letter in Spanish to Luis de Santangel, who had interceded for him with Isabella, and that later, on February 17, he made the transcript or second copy addressed to the treasurer, Gabriel Sanchez. The editions of this Spanish letter are as follows:

First folio edition. [Barcelona?] 1493. The only copy known was first owned by Maisonneuve, of Paris, and then by Quaritch, of London, who now has it.

A facsimile of this first folio edition was printed by Maisonneuve, Paris, 1889; another by Quaritch in 1891. **4310.117** **4310.127**

First quarto edition. [Naples?] 1493. A unique copy is in the Ambrosian library at Milan.

A pseudo-facsimile of this was printed at Milan in 1866, under **4311.4** the care of G. D'Adda. The text of the first quarto was printed **2264.63** in Major, 2d ed.

Second quarto edition. Quaritch says of this, "Printed probably at no very remote period in Italy in imitation" of first quarto. It was owned by Mr. Brayton Ives, of New York.

A facsimile of this second quarto was printed in London, **2311.78** 1889.

FIRST LATIN LETTER TO SANCHEZ, THE ROYAL TREASURER.

This Library owns one of five known copies of this Roman edition, printed by Stephen Planck in 1493; it is thought by Harris to be the first of all editions. Of the Library copy two facsimiles exist. First the one printed in 1875, by Samuel **G.14.1** L. M. Barlow, who had procured the original from the Library of Colonel Aspinwall. The second facsimile is in heliotype, and was first issued by the Boston Public Library in its Bulletin for Oct., 1890. A heliotype of the book itself is also shown. Copies of this Bulletin will be sold on price of annual subscription (\$1.00). This facsimile was afterwards issued in connection

- 4311.131** tion with an entirely new translation by Professor Henry W. Haynes, the Bulletin issue having with it Major's translation. The Haynes translation with the facsimile plates can be purchased for fifty cents on application. A large-paper copy edition was also published. According to HARRISSE, the first illustrated Roman issue should be ranked as the second of these editions of the First Latin Letter. Lenox and Brunet place it first; Major fourth. The wood-cuts are elaborate, and HARRISSE argues that the first edition, without cuts, was probably issued in a hurry. The first facsimile of this edition was of an imperfect copy, lacking first and last leaves. The second facsimile was made from a fine perfect copy in the Lenox library, and edited by J. S. Kennedy. One cut represents Ferdinand of Spain holding the escutcheons of Castille and Leon, and of Granada.
- G.300.23**
- G.302.19**
- 4314.112**
- 2314.69** A facsimile, supposed by the editor, C. Ruelens, to be from an original issued in 1493 by Thierry Martens, the great printer of Antwerp, has been purposely altered in size from the original by a slight difference in size, to prevent imposture.
- 4410.9** In Lenox's edition of the *De Insulis* of Sillacio is a bibliographical study of the editions of the voyages; interesting photographic facsimiles of the editions of the Sanchez letter are in HARRISSE's Notes on Columbus.
- G.300.9**

THE VOYAGES AND THE LANDFALL.

Historically considered, aside from the question of the character of and treatment accorded to Columbus, the dispute concerning the land first made by him, and called by him Guanahani, is of paramount interest.

The five hypotheses of the landfall are as follows:

- 4367.6.3** 1°. San Salvador, or Cat Island. The supporters are De la Roquette, in his French version of Navarrete, vol. 3, and Irving, vol. 1, book 4. Humboldt trusted Irving's conclusions, which were worked out by A. S. Mackenzie, on the basis of La Cosa's map.
- 4411.105.1**
- 2313.58** 2°. Watling's Island. Capt. Becher supports the theory in his Landfall of Columbus, 1856, and in the Journal of the Royal Geog. society, vol. 26, p. 189. Lieut. Murdock in the U. S. Naval Institute, Proc., vol. 10, 1884, also favors this view.
- 6265.2.26**
- D.250a.5.1** 3°. Grand Turk Island. Navarrete was first to admit the hypothesis in 1825; he was followed by Major in his first edition of Letters of Columbus.
- 2264.1**

4°. Mariguana Island. Varnhagen advocates this as the true Guanahani in the Transactions of the Philosophical-historical class of the Royal Academy of Sciences of Vienna, vol. 60, 1868, pp. 405-416. **3350.6.60**

5°. Samana or Attwood's Cay. This place is selected by Capt. Fox, in the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, Report for 1880, app. 18. An epitome is in Mag. of Amer. Hist., April, 1883. **4210.66**
4414.50.9

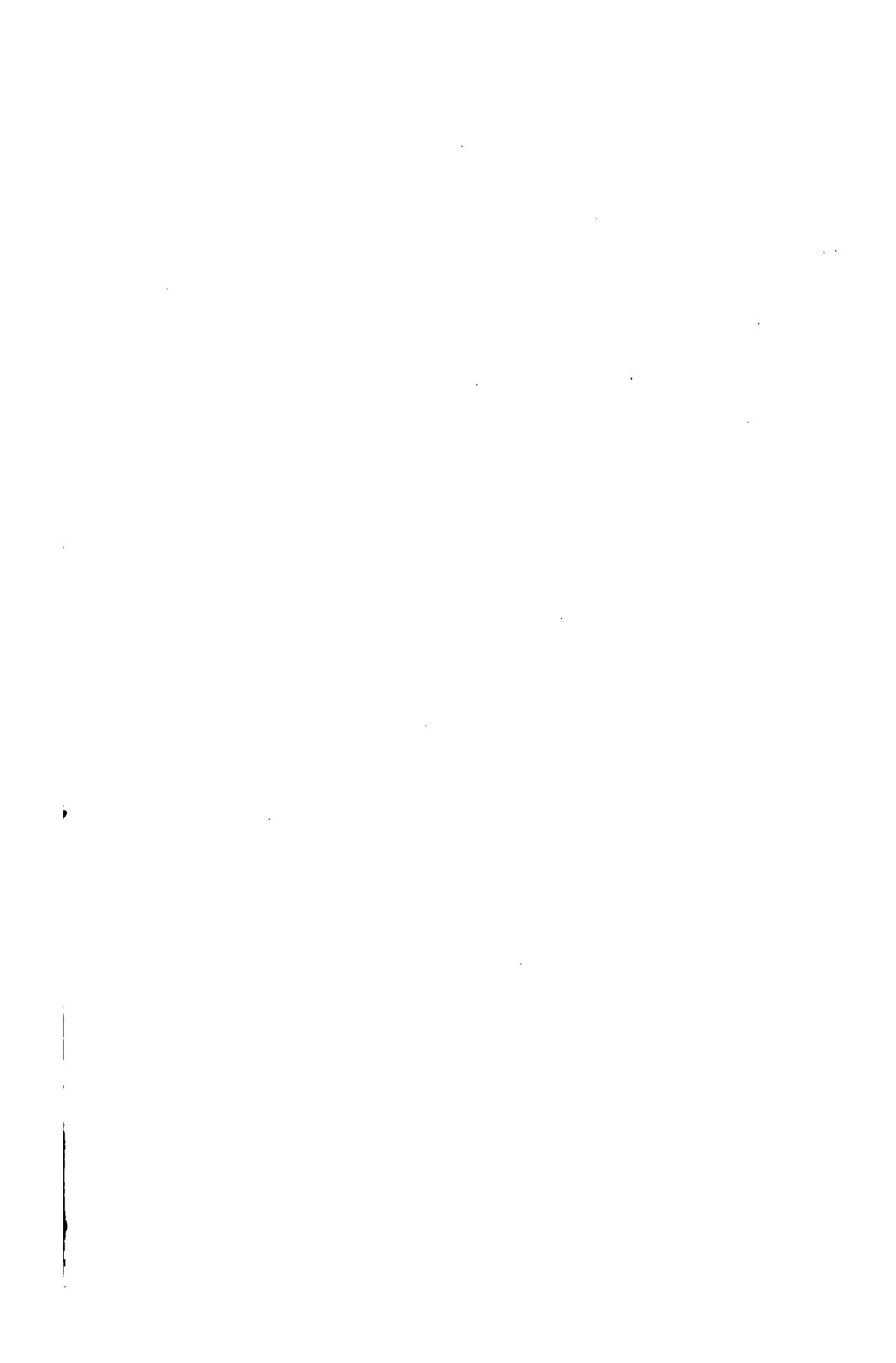
CARAVELS OF THE PERIOD.

The vessels in which the voyages were made are of interest. In the sumptuous folio (vol. 4) of the Museo Español de Antiquidades is a plate illustrating caravels of the period. See **Ticknor Cab.**
1, vol. 4
also a modern cut in Roselly de Lorgues, vol. 1, p. 231; there **4745.8.1**
is a lively contemporary representation in the illustrated edition **4314.112**
of the Sanchez letter. **2318.14**

MAPS.

A map of the four voyages, traced on one plate, is in Roselly de Lorgues, vol. 1. In connection with the voyages of Columbus, the De Insulis Meridiani nuper inventis of Sillacio is of value, because the author accompanied Columbus on his second voyage. Lenox's edition of the work also introduces the account of Dr. Chanca, physician to the fleet on this voyage. It will be impracticable to attempt to exhibit even a small part of the matters of interest relating to the cartography of the great period of discovery. Those interested should look at Jomard's great Atlas, and the still later folio of Nordenskiöld. Two maps however must be mentioned as especially relating to Columbus. One is that of Juan de La Cosa in 1500. **62.C.1**
62.L.2
2316.10.5
Harris calls it the "most important cartographical monument concerning the New World." La Cosa accompanied the Admiral on the second voyage. The map was discovered in 1832, and published by Humboldt in his great work on the discoveries, the Examen. The original is at Madrid. Jomard also reproduces it in black and white. The colored vignette represents St. Christopher crossing water with the infant Christ upon his shoulders. Major reproduces it in his 2d edition. It is claimed, though without authentication, that the face represents that of Columbus, of whom the whole picture is said to be symbolical. **4310a.160.2**
2264.63

- 6280.70** Sylvanus in the 1511 edition of Ptolemy gives a mappemonde on a cordiform projection — the first made; on it at the extreme west is a slight recognition of the New World as well as of the alleged discoveries of Cortereal in 1463, '64, in a spot marked Regalis Domus [Corte Real]. Greenland is on this plan connected with Europe.
- 4310a.160.2** In Winsor's History, vol. 2, p. 102, is a copy of Toscanelli's map, which is thought to have influenced Columbus as early as 1474, perhaps more correctly in 1482.





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